

ARE SILENT FOR OVER FORTY YEARS

REMARKABLE CASE OF BROTHER AND SISTER.

LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSE

During Entire Time James and Mary Durney Have Not Spoken to Each Other—Usually Eat Their Meals Separately.

New York.—On a 75-acre farm, four miles from Chateaugay, Franklin county, N. Y., dwell James and Mary Durney, brother and sister, who, although they have lived in the same house since childhood and are the only occupants of the house, have not spoken to each other for 42 years.

James is 69 years old and Mary 55. Their uncommunicativeness has for two score years been one of the wonders of that part of Franklin county, and the fact that, otherwise, they appear to get along together amicably, has but served to intensify interest in the case.

What further adds to the interest of the situation is that neither brother nor sister ever says a derogatory word of the other to anyone.

Yet the cause of the period of 42 years of silence toward each other is one of the traditions of neighbors. When Mary Durney was 13 years old she wanted to go to a party in the village of Chateaugay, and her brother, five years older, declared that she should not, that she was too young to go to parties.

The girl tried to slip out of the house, but her brother caught and detained her and refused to permit her to leave the sitting-room of their home until the last vehicle had departed with its merry load of youthful farmer-folk. As the sound of the wheels of the last carryall died away Mary was seized with frantic grief and passion, and struggled desperately to open the door that her brother had locked, putting the key in his pocket. He sat back and laughed at his little sister's vain efforts to open the door. She struggled to force the lock and then pounded frantically on the door, until, exhausted by her efforts and her impotent rage, she fell on the floor. She lay there for hours, refusing to move, and shrieking when her brother tried to get her to rise.

When the girl arose the next day she refused to speak to or notice her brother, and this is the attitude that she has maintained resolutely, through good fortune and bad, through deaths in the family, through success in business enterprises that came to them, through the sickness or health of both of them.

Her brother, quick to take his cue, and apparently feeling as angry as



FOR 42 YEARS THEY HAVE NEVER SPOKEN OR DINED AT THE SAME TABLE.

she, after a few abortive attempts, ceased to speak to her when he received no answer to his remarks. And from that day, 42 years ago on October 11, these two persons, dwelling together, have locked their lips against each other.

The father of the pair died 29 years ago. During the last years of his life he tried in every way to break the silence between his son and daughter, but they steadfastly refused to comply with his wishes. After the death of their father, the mother took up the task of attempting to reconcile her two children, but she met with no better success. She died 18 years ago.

When her father and mother died Mary Durney refused to attend their funerals. Neighbors for miles around tried to persuade her to do so, but she stubbornly declined. Mary Durney will not eat if a stranger is around. None of the neighbors can remember ever seeing her at a meal. If anyone approaches the house she usually locks and bolts the door. She has never been to church or to school. Rev. P. J. Devlin, of St. Patrick's church, Chateaugay, often calls at the house to get Mary to attend the services, but when she sees him approaching she slams and bolts the door in his face. All his knocking at the door and on the windows fails to elicit any response. She merely goes about the house pulling down the shades.

Since the day when she and her mother quarreled over the party Mary never has worn a shoe or stocking. Summer and winter she goes barefoot. When it is noted that the farm where she lives is only one mile from the Canadian border, one may realize the suffering that going barefooted entails upon her. When the farmhouse is surrounded by deep drifts of snow Mary

Butterflies at Sea.
Butterflies which are blown out to sea have been thought by inexperienced observers to belong to a different species from the ordinary land butterflies; but there are none which can be said to live on the sea.

GETS RICHES AND TITLE.

Miss Eloise Breeze, an American Girl, to Wed Heir to One of England's Greatest Estates.

London.—Miss Eloise Breeze, eldest daughter of the late W. L. Breeze, of New York, and the lady who is now Mrs. Harry Higgins, is receiving shoals of congratulations on her engagement with Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, son and heir to the earl of Ancaster. D'Eresby, who is 38, was engaged for one week to Miss Muriel Wilson 11 years ago, but the engagement was broken off because the Ancasters are strict Protestants and



MISS ELOISE BREEZE (American Girl Engaged to Wed English Lord.)

disapproved of Miss Wilson's liberal views about Sabbath observance.

Lord Willoughby's father claims to be duke of Ancaster and is joint hereditary great chamberlain of England, which gives him high precedence at court. He and the marquis of Chalmodeley both claim the office, but the house of lords is unable to decide between them, so each holds it in alternate years.

Lord Willoughby d'Eresby is very quiet and serious. It was expected last year that he would propose for Miss Muriel White, daughter of the present Ambassador White.

Lord Ancaster is one of the wealthiest peers in England. He owns immense landed estates, is a great bulwark of Toryism, and when Sir William Harcourt passed his death duties bill Ancaster transferred all his estates to d'Eresby in order to evade eventual payment of the new duties. This arrangement, under which d'Eresby could at any moment evict his father from his houses and property, was considered remarkable testimony of confidence in him.

Miss Eloise Breeze, who closely resembles her mother, is handsome, of classic type, and also very witty, clever and cultivated. She is a daughter of the late William Lawrence Breeze, who died a few years ago at Ialip, I. I., leaving an immense fortune to his widow and children. A few years later Mrs. Breeze gave her hand in marriage to Henry Vincent Higgins, the six-foot-three son of the "Jacob Omnium" of the London Times, and former officer of the First life guards, and who has recently been decorated by King Edward with the Victorian order for his services in connection with the management of the opera at Covent Garden.

TO WED KAISER'S SON.

Engagement of Duchess Sophie Charlotte and Prince Eitel Frederick of Germany Announced.

Berlin.—The engagement of Prince Eitel Frederick, second son of Emperor William, to Duchess Sophie Charlotte, eldest daughter of the reigning grand duke of Oldenburg, has been announced.

Duchess Sophie Charlotte is a slim graceful girl, with pale, regular features. She is four and one-half years older than Prince Eitel, who was



DUCHESS SOPHIE CHARLOTTE (Who Will Wed Prince Eitel Frederick of Germany.)

Born in 1881, and is little known in Berlin. She has been the constant companion of her father, Grand Duke Frederick of Oldenburg, on his long yachting trips. She became well acquainted with Prince Eitel at Kiel last June, where the young duchess did skillful work with his small rater Elizabeth. Prince Eitel is often called the favorite of the court, and his engagement has caused unusual popular interest.

War Tax Raises Rents.

Recent Japanese papers say that the heavy war tax imposed on city residential lands has caused land owners in the city of Tokio to raise ground rents, and in turn, house owners have increased house rents. This has caused much dissatisfaction among the poor.

Were Big Pigs.

Fossil pigs, the size of cows, have been found in Oregon.

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